

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-43 are pending in this application. The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. Claims 1, 15, 16 and 19 are herein amended.

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1. (currently amended) An automatic manhour setting system for giving manhour data to a target work standard data converted into computer data, comprising:

a storage medium which stores a standard manhour database designed to be readable by a computer, in which a number of pairs each constituted by a work standard described by a standardized standard expression and a manhour corresponding to the work standard are registered in advance;

setting means for, for each of target work standards to which manhours are to be given, matching an expression of the target work standard with the standard expressions of the work standards in said standard manhour database and setting a standard manhour of corresponding to a matching work standard in said database as a manhour of the target work standard; and

manhour file means for storing a ~~set manhour~~ file of manhours of the target work standards set by said setting means.

2. (original) The system according to claim 1, wherein the target work standard to which the manhour is to be given is described by an operation phrase representing an operation of a work, an object phrase representing a target of the operation, and a comment phrase representing auxiliary information related to the operation and/or object, and

each of the work standards in said database is also described by an operation

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phrase, object phrase, and comment phrase.

3. (original) The system according to claim 1, wherein
for the target work standard to which the manhour is to be given, a first comment
related to an object of an operation, an object phrase representing the object of the operation, a
second comment related to the operation, and an operation phrase representing the operation of
the work are described in a predetermined order, and

for each of the work standards in said database, a first comment, object phrase,
second comment, and operation phrase are also described in the predetermined order.

4. (original) The system according to claim 1, wherein said setting means
preferentially executes search based on complete matching between the expression of the target
work standard and the standard expression of the work standard in said standard manhour
database.

5. (original) The system according to claim 4, wherein said setting means
uses search based on partial matching for the target work standard for which the search based on
complete matching to the standard expression of the work standard in said standard manhour
database fails.

6. (original) The system according to claim 4, wherein, when the search of
the expression of the target work standard in said standard manhour database fails, said setting
means executes search in a second manhour database whose degree of standardization is lower
than that of said standard manhour database.

7. (original) The system according to claim 5, wherein the expression
included in the target work standard includes an expression by a wild card.

8. (original) The system according to claim 7, wherein, when a plurality of

standard work standards which match a work standard including an expression including a wild card symbol are present, candidates are displayed in a descending order of the degrees of matching to cause the user to select any one of the candidates.

9. (original) The system according to claim 1, wherein standard manhour data in said standard manhour database contains a manhour value and data related to a set condition when the manhour value is set.

10. (original) The system according to claim 9, wherein the condition data is referred to by a directory in a memory space of said automatic manhour setting system, and

 said setting means sets a directory value of the searched set condition data of the work standard as the manhour of the target work standard.

11. (original) The system according to claim 6, further comprising analysis means for analyzing the work standard to assign the manhour when no matching is obtained by searching the second manhour database.

12. (original) The system according to claim 6, further comprising analysis means for analyzing the work standard to assign the manhour when no matching is obtained by searching said standard manhour database.

13. (original) The system according to claim 11, wherein said analysis means uses a creation tool with the same reference as that in creating contents of said standard manhour database.

14. (original) The system according to claim 12, wherein said analysis means uses a creation tool with the same reference as that in creating contents of said second manhour database.

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15. (currently amended) The system according to claim 1, wherein further comprising download means for downloading a plurality of work standard data to which manhours are to be given.

16. (currently amended) The system according to claim 15, wherein the plurality of downloadable work standard are stored in an external database, and

 said download means comprises
 means for downloading directories of the downloadable work standards from the external database and displaying the directories, and
 selection means for selecting an arbitrary one of the displayed directories, thereby selecting the target work standard to which the manhour is to be given.

17. (original) The system according to claim 16, wherein
 the external database stores the downloadable work standards having a
 hierarchical structure according to the degree of assembly,
 said download means downloads upper directories to said manhour setting system
 together with the directories of the downloadable work standards,
 said display means displays the downloaded work standard directories and upper
 directories together, and
 said selection means can designate to select whether one of the displayed work
 standard directories or upper directories.

18. (original) A distributed client/server database system comprising:
 a server including said manhour setting system of claim 1; and
 a plurality of clients each having said setting means of claim 1.

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19. (currently amended) An automatic manhour setting method of giving manhour data to a target work standard data converted into computer data, comprising the steps of:

registering a number of pairs each constituted by a work standard described by a standardized standard expression and a manhour corresponding to the work standard in advance in a standard manhour database designed to be readable by a computer;
matching, for each of target work standards to which manhours are to be given, matching an expression of the target work standard with the standard expressions of the work standards in the standard manhour database; and

setting a standard manhour of corresponding to a matching work standard in the database as a manhour of the target work standard; and

storing a set manhour file of manhours of the target work standards set in said setting step.

20. (original) The method according to claim 19, wherein the target work standard to which the manhour is to be given is described by an operation phrase representing an operation of a work, an object phrase representing a target of the operation, and a comment phrase representing auxiliary information related to the operation and/or object, and

each of the work standards in the database is also described by an operation phrase, object phrase, and comment phrase.

21. (original) The method according to claim 19, wherein for the target work standard to which the manhour is to be given, a first comment related to an object of an operation, an object phase representing the object of the operation, a

second comment related to the operation, and an operation phrase representing the operation of the work are described in a predetermined order, and

for each of the work standards in the database, a first comment, object phrase, second comment, and operation phrase are also described in the predetermined order.

22. (original) The method according to claim 19, wherein, in said setting step, preferentially search based on complete matching between the expression of the target work standard and the standard expression of the work standard in the standard manhour database is executed.

23. (original) The method according to claim 22, wherein, in said setting step, search based on partial matching for the target work standard for which the search based on complete matching to the standard expression of the work standard in the standard manhour database fails is executed.

24. (original) The method according to claim 22, wherein, when the search of the expression of the target work standard in the standard manhour database fails, executing search in a second manhour database whose degree of standardization is lower than that of the standard manhour database is executed in said setting step.

25. (original) The method according to claim 23, wherein the expression included in the target work standard includes an expression by a wild card.

26. (original) The method according to claim 25, when a plurality of standard work standards which match a work standard including an expression including a wild card symbol are present, candidates are displayed in a descending order of the degrees of matching to cause the user to select any one of the candidates.

27. (original) The method according to claim 19, wherein standard manhour

data in the standard manhour database contains a manhour value and data related to a set condition when the manhour value is set.

28. (original) The method according to claim 27, wherein the condition data is referred to by a directory in a memory space of the automatic manhour setting system, and

in said setting step, a directory value of the searched set condition data of the work standard is set as the manhour of the target work standard.

29. (original) The method according to claim 24, further comprising an analysis step of analyzing the work standard to assign the manhour when no matching is obtained by searching the second manhour database.

30. (original) The method according to claim 24, further comprising an analysis step of analyzing the work standard to assign the manhour when no matching is obtained by searching the standard manhour database.

31. (original) The method according to claim 29, wherein, in said analysis step, a creation tool is used with the same reference as that in creating contents of the standard manhour database.

32. (original) The method according to claim 30, wherein, in said analysis step, a creation tool is used with the same reference as that in creating contents of the second manhour database.

33. (original) The method according to claim 19, further comprising a download step of downloading a plurality of work standard data to which manhours are to be given.

34. (original) The method according to claim 19, wherein

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the plurality of downloadable work standard are stored in an external database,

and

said download step comprises steps of

downloading directories of the downloadable work standards from the external database and displaying the directories, and

selecting an arbitrary one of the displayed directories, thereby selecting the target work standard to which the manhour is to be given.

35. (original) The method according to claim 34, wherein

the external database stores the downloadable work standards having a hierarchical structure according to the degree of assembly,

in said download step, upper directories are downloaded to the manhour setting system together with the directories of the downloadable work standards,

in said display step, the downloaded work standard directories and upper directories are displayed together, and

in said selection step, whether one of the displayed work standard directories or upper directories is selected.

36. (original) The method according to claim 35, wherein the hierarchical structure according to the degree of assembly is formed by putting the plurality of work standards together into an upper work group and giving a group identifier to each of the groups put together.

37. (original) The method according to claim 36, wherein the work group is classified into one of a component group formed from a plurality of work standards, a model group formed from a plurality of components, and a genre group formed from a plurality of

models.

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38. (original) The method according to claim 19, wherein the manhour file has, for each work standard, a field where a log of addition and correction related to the manhour is recorded.

39. (original) The system according to claim 1, wherein the manhour file has, for each work standard, a field where a log of addition and correction related to the manhour is recorded.

40. (original) The system according to claim 39, further comprising means for referring to the log field.

41. (original) A computer program storage medium which stores program codes of said automatic manhour setting method to realize said automatic manhour setting method of claim 19 by a computer system.

42. (original) The system according to claim 2, wherein for the target work standard to which the manhour is to be given, a first comment related to an object of an operation, an object phrase representing the object of the operation, a second comment related to the operation, and an operation phrase representing the operation of the work are described in a predetermined order, and

for each of the work standards in said database, a first comment, object phrase, second comment, and operation phrase are also described in the predetermined order.

43. (original) The method according to claim 20, wherein for the target work standard to which the manhour is to be given, a first comment related to an object of an operation, an object phrase representing the object of the operation, a second comment related to the operation, and an operation phrase representing the operation of

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the work are described in a predetermined order, and

for each of the work standards in the database, a first comment, object phase, second comment, and operation phrase are also described in the predetermined order.
